

There, "by the graveside, Zola read a pathetic farewell to his departed friend and comrade, of whose corpse, in accordance with usage, he had been one of the watchers a few nights previously. His hand shook as he fingered his manuscript, and there was poignant emotion in his voice when he evoked the memory not only of Daudet, but also of those who had gone before, — Flaubert and Edmond de Goncourt. "They were giants, good giants, artisans of truth and beauty," he said; "and now, great even as they were, of equal stature by virtue of the work he accomplished, Daudet has gone to join them in the grave, to repose beside them like a brother, in the same glory. We were four brothers: three have departed already, I remain alone."

Doubtless his feelings of loneliness were intensified by the groans, the cries he had heard, the ill-disguised hostility also of some of the mourners around him. But Zola was a stubborn man, great by reason of that very stubbornness. No attacks, no insults, no sufferings, could ever turn him from any purpose that he resolved upon in the plenitude of his intellect, guided by his sense of right and wrong. Soon after Daudet's funeral, that is on January 6, 1898, he issued another pamphlet, this time a "Letter to France,"<sup>1</sup> in which, after referring to the approaching arraignment of Major "Walsin-Esterhazy before a court-

martial, he pro-  
tested against the violence of the press, and  
while disclaim-  
ing all idea of insulting the army, pointed out  
the dangers of

<sup>1</sup> "Lettre a la France," Paris, Fasquelle, 1898, uniform  
with the "Lettre  
& la Jeunesse." An English translation of these letters and  
of "J'Accuse,"  
and a further letter to General Billot, is published by John  
Lane, London  
and New York, under the title of "Zola's Letters to  
France." Introduction  
by L. F. Austin, 16mo, xiii-45 pages.